(b) if so, what is the percentage of the proposed hike; and

(c) by when this hike is likely to be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Fares on domestic sector are not regulated. All airlines operators are free to charge any fare based on their cost input and the competitive market environment.

Indian Airlines has increased its fare across the board by 10% on domestic sectors *w.e.f.* 10.11.2002. Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines have also increased their fares by about 10% in November, 2002.

Temporary employees in AAI

†1959. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of group 'C' and 'D' employees who have been kept on temporary basis in Airports Authority of India during the last three years;

(b) the period of employment of each such temporary employees whether working continuously or with break;

(c) the salary paid to each employee per month; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken by Government to fill up the posts on permanent basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) 242 number of persons in Group 'C' and none in Group 'D' on temporary basis and 86 persons in Group 'C' and 28 in Group 'D' on *adhoc* basis have been employed in the Airports Authority of India.

(b) All such employees have been working without any break.

(c) The appointments have been made in Group C in the pay scale of Rs. 5500-10060, Rs. 5800-10960 and Rs. 6300-12060 and in Group D in the pay scale of Rs. 4400-6920 with other allowances and perks as applicable.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) As per Recruitment and Promotion Rules, initially all appointments are made on temporary basis. On successful completion of probation period their services are made permanent, 144 Group 'C' and 27 Group 'D' persons who joined in 2000 and 2001 have since been appointed on permanent basis on successful completion of probation. As regards *adhoc* appointments, these are made due to exigencies of work necessitated by additional construction activities, and are dispensed with on completion of the activities.

Direct flight between Hyderabad and Bangkok

1960. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Centre for one direct flight between Hyderabad and Bangkok;

(b) if so, whether Government would agree to the request;

(c) if so, by when it would be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines is presently operating twice weekly service between Hyderabad and Bangkok *via* Bangalore and Chennai. A request received from Government of Andhra Pradesh in December, 2001 to operate one of these two services directly between Hyderabad and Bangkok, has not been found commercially viable by Indian Airlines.

Operation of Phuket Air from Kolkata to Bangkok

1961. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from M/s Phuket Air to operate flights on "Bangkok-Kolkata-Bangkok" has been forwarded by Government of West Bengal;

(b) whether necessary permission is being accorded by the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?